Serial No.: 10/749,378

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-referenced application are respectfully requested.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-7, 9-14, 20-23, 25, and 26 are cancelled herein without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 8, 15, 18, and 24 are "objected to."

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 8, 15-19, and 24 are currently pending and under consideration.

II. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1, 3, 25, AND 26 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(B) AS BEING ANTICIPATED BY FIOROLI (GB 2112610A)

Claims 1, 3, 25, and 26 are cancelled herein.

In view of the above, it is respectfully requested that the rejection is overcome.

III. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 2, 4-7, 9-14, AND 20-23 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(A) OVER THE COMBINATION OF REFERENCES

Claims 2, 4-7, 9-14, and 20-23 are cancelled herein.

In view of the above, it is respectfully requested that the rejection is overcome.

IV. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claims 8, 15, 18, and 24 have been rewritten in independent form and thus, define allowable subject matter.

V. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that each of the claims patentably distinguishes over the prior art, and therefore defines allowable subject matter. A prompt and favorable reconsideration of the rejection along with an indication of allowability of all pending claims are therefore respectfully requested.

Serial No.: 10/749,378

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: 2 - 24 - 06

Derrick I Fields

Registration No. 50,133

1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700 Washington, D.C. 20005 Telephone (202) 434-1500 Facsimile (202) 434-1501